Mike and Melissa
Episode 25: Mike’s First Animation, AKA A Not So Honorable Mention

By

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SCENE 1- EXT. MIKE’S HAPPY PLACE, EARLY AFTERNOON

It’s good ol’ me in my skunk form, sketching a nude MELISSA in recline. Classic! The drawing that I’m doing is hyperrealistic, yet still maintaining her cartoony charm.

MELISSA
So tell me, why do you like drawing me so much anyways?

MIKE
(drooling at her figure)
You have to ask?

MELISSA
Well... there is that. Still though, you could draw any matter of creature with a body like mine, even other skunks. You could even get carried away and make my already ridiculous breasts even ridiculous...er.

I look at my drawing and realize that I’ve given her ridiculouser breasts. I quickly erase them and redraw them to be more reasonable.

MIKE
I could, but I don’t.

MELISSA
But why not?

MIKE
Because I think you’re beautiful just the way you are, my darling.

MELISSA
Aw shucks, you would think that. I’d get up and give you a smooch but I don’t wanna throw off your drawing.

MIKE
Well how about this? You can give me an extra big one when it’s done.

MELISSA
I could... or I could do THIS!

She stretches out her lips and gives me a big smooch right on the mouth! They retract.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
I didn’t know you could do that.

MELISSA
There’s a lot of things you don’t know about me. Did you know that I paint?

MIKE
I did actually.

MELISSA
Oh. Well. I guess there’s not as much that you don’t know about me as I thought. BUT THERE ARE STILL THINGS YOU DON’T KNOW!

MIKE
Alright! Sheesh, I get the picture... speaking of, I think I’m done.

MELISSA
Yay! Lemme see! Lemme see!

I show her. Her face kinda sinks a little bit.

MELISSA
Oh. It’s... it’s good, honey.

MIKE
"Good"? Whadya mean just "good"? I employed a Carravagio style hyperrealism, as evidenced by my extreme chiaroscuro and my-

MELISSA
You did...? Uhm... I may not be the best art critic in the world but I’m not sure I see it.

MIKE
What?!?!?

MELISSA
Take another look.

I turn the picture around and it’s just a really stupid looking drawing of mine. The scene around me dissolves into...

SCENE 2- INT. MIKE’S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM, 11/26/2011, 3PM

Turns out we’ve been there the whole time. I’m back in my stupid human form.

MIKE
AW MAN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! THIS AIN’T CARRAVAGIO, IT’S JUST CHENOWETH!

MELISSA
Well you know, even though Carravagio might be the better artist, I’ll take Chenoweth over him anyways.

MIKE
Aw baby.

I move in to kiss, but she throws me off by doing the lip stretch thingy again.

MIKE
Alright, are you going to do that the whole night through?

MELISSA
I dunno. Maybe I will, maybe I won’t. That’s just one more thing YOU DON’T KNOW ABOUT ME!!!

MIKE
...Okay. I guess-

She does the lip stretchy thing again.

MIKE
FOR CRYIN’ OUT LOUD!!!

INTRO SEQUENCE!!!

I’m examining my crappy drawing trying to find something salvageable about it.

MIKE
You know... it’s not ALL that terrible. Like when I look at it from a certain angle, it’s... ok.

MELISSA
Really?

MIKE
NO, NOT REALLY!!! IT SUCKS ALL KINDS OF DICK FROM EVERY ANGLE!!!

I shred up my drawing and start slapping my head against the floor.

MELISSA
Y'know, I don't think Carravagio got as good as he did by ripping up his drawings and slappin' his head on the floor.

MIKE
Yeah probably not! It doesn't matter though because I'm never gonna be a good artist!

MELISSA
Well jeez, not with that attitude.

MIKE
NOT WITH ANY ATTITUDE!!! I'M LOUSY AT EVERYTHING!!!

MEL gets up and comes over to me.

MELISSA
Now that's just a load of baloney. Look dear, you can't grill yourself too hard about your artwork. You've only been working on it seriously for what, a year?

MIKE
A year and a few months, give or take-

MELISSA
Exactly! Do you realize it takes professional artists their whole lives to get to the level they're at?

MIKE
Yeah, but I spent my whole life getting good at NOTHING!!!

MELISSA
(sighs)
Well first off, you're good at lots of other things. Second, your life's not over yet, there's still
(MORE)

MELISSA (cont'd)
time to learn how to draw or do... anything you want, really. You'll be good some day if you keep working at it. Okay?

MIKE
Okay.

Smooch.

MIKE
Hey, you didn't even have to stretch out your lips or anything.

MELISSA
I didn't! So hey, whadya say we go do something else? Don't you have some homework you should get started on?

MIKE
Yeah, probably. Finals are coming up soon, and I should probably start thinking about my animation project- MY ANIMATION PROJECT!!! I CAN'T DRAW AND I'M GONNA FAIL AND I'M DOOMED!!!

MELISSA
Man... what do I have to do to win???

MIKE
DO MY ANIMATION PROJECT FOR ME!!!

MELISSA
Other than that.

MIKE
NOTHING!!!

MELISSA
GOSH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SCENE 3- INT. N QUAD COMPUTER LAB, 11/28/2011, 5PM

PROFESSOR MCNAMARA and DOUG KNOTTS are up at the front of the room, as KNOTTS is giving a presentation about how to do animation stuff. I'm sittin' there, actually paying attention for a change (gasp!). KNOTTS draws some storyboard stuff for the TV show he works on through his digital tablet, though he seems to be struggling a bit.

KNOTTS
Well, I’ve gotta admit I’m a little embarrassed to be drawing like this in front of all you, but I’m not really used to using this tablet. All excuses aside though, I hope some of the things I said today were helpful. Animation, especially TV animation, has the benefit of bringing out and exaggerating the emotional states of characters in ways that no other medium can really duplicate. That’s what I find really cool about it and why I enjoy doing it. At the same time remember all the basic things that you’ve been learning in your film theory classes. Scene rhythm, mood, cutting patterns, frame composition...

MIKE (V.O.)
I swear to god, if you say anything about fuckin’ rectangles...

KNOTTS
I use all that stuff every day in my work, whether I’m aware of it or not. And finally, even though I know a lot of you may not be considering animation as your career path right now, keep in mind that you never really know where you might end up when you’re going into the entertainment industry. I originally went out to LA wanting to be a screenwriter, and 20 years later I’m a storyboard artist for an internationally televised cartoon. So if you want to go into entertainment, keep yourself open, and don’t give up when one thing doesn’t work out. Anything can happen.

PROF. MCNAMARA
Thank you, Doug. Again, everyone, Mr. Doug Knotts. Give him a hand for coming in here today.

Applause. The class starts to pack up.

KNOTTS
I’ve got a flight to catch in a couple hours, but if anyone has any quick questions I’ll be willing to answer them.

I’m packing up my stuff. MEL poofs in as I get up to go.

MELISSA
Aren’t you gonna talk to him?

MIKE
Oh... uh, I don’t think so... I mean, he’s got a flight to catch so-

MELISSA
Mike, this guy is working on an INTERNATIONALLY TELEVISED CARTOON! He’s living out your dream! You don’t have any questions about what it’s like living out YOUR DREAM?

MIKE
Not really.

MELISSA
YES really! Don’t you realize how valuable his input could be? Go up there and show him your stuff.

MIKE
But my stuff sucks.

MELISSA
Then maybe he can tell you how to make it better! Go.

MIKE
Melissa-

MELISSA
GOOOOOOOOOOO!

MIKE
Alright, fine.

I approach KNOTTS and PROF. MCNAMARA. MEL hangs back.

MIKE
Hey, so... I’ve always been interested in animation, and I’d really like to go into it in some
(MORE)

MIKE (cont'd)
regard, whether it be writing, drawing, doing sound... whatever really. So I guess what I'm trying to ask is, besides what you already said, what advice would you give to someone who wants to break into that field?

KNOTTS
Well, first thing I would say is specialize. It's one thing if you want to do everything by yourself independently, but in the industry it's more of a collaboration between people who are really good at what they do and use their talents together to create something they couldn't make on their own. So of all those options you listed what would you say you're best at?

MIKE
I mean, I've always considered my main talent to be writing (and I still do!), but I've also been really interested in drawing for the past year. And it's sort of like you said, I'm not really sure where I might end up.

KNOTTS
Well that's true; don't get me wrong, it's good to be multi-talented, but once you establish your niche you'll almost certainly be focusing on that talent in a professional setting.

MIKE
Right. Well, even if I don't pursue art professionally, I would still interested in doing it as a hobby, so I was also wondering if you had any pointers...

KNOTTS
Do you have a website or online portfolio?

MIKE
Nothing that fancy... I do have a deviantART profile that nobody visits though.

KNOTTS
Yeah, nobody visits mine either. Well I don’t really have time to look it over much here, but you can email me the link and I’ll look it over when I get home.

He gives me his card.

MIKE
Thank you, I would really appreciate it.

KNOTTS
No problem, anything I can do to help.

PROF. MCNAMARA
See you next week, Mike.

I wave an appreciative goodbye and walk towards the exit. MELISSA, who’s been sorta hangin’ out back there the whole time, walks out with me.

MELISSA
See? Was that so hard?

MIKE
I guess not.

MELISSA
That’s some pretty darn good advice. You should keep that in mind not only for the distant future, but also for your project!

MIKE
MY PROJECT!!! NOOOOOOOO!!!

I collapse all dramatic-like.

MELISSA
YOU KNOW, IF ALL YOU HAD TO DO TO BE A GOOD ANIMATION GUY WAS BE OVERLY DRAMATIC, YOU’D BE THE BEST IN THE WORLD!!!

MIKE
YA THINK??? WELL I WISH THE WORLD WAS LIKE THAT BECAUSE THEN I'D AT LEAST BE GOOD AT SOMETHING!!!

MELISSA
GOSH!!!!!!!!!!! AGAIN!!!!!!!!!

SCENE 4- INT. MIKE'S APARTMENT, 11/29/2011, 3PM

I'm sittin' on the couch playin' me some more Skyrim, still glitchy as ever. MELISSA walks in.

MELISSA
You're STILL playin' that blasted game?

MIKE
Hey man, you'd be all about this "blasted" game if it was called "Skunkrim".

MELISSA
Sure would! Skunks are DOPE!

MIKE
Don't I know it!

MELISSA
You do! Sadly, they seem to have overlooked the dopeness of skunks in this game... they also seem to have overlooked the importance of the ground.

The ground disappears from the world of the game, and all the wandering townsfolk plummet to their death as my character sort of hovers in mid-air.

MIKE
Huh. I hope none of the quest-important characters just died... oh, there goes the captain of the guard. Great.

MELISSA
Just as well. You should probably get to work on your animation project.

MIKE
My animation project? I ain’t worried about that.

MELISSA
No? And why’s that?

MIKE
That’s the LEAST of my worries. I’ve also gotta write a 10-page paper, upload and edit a video, do 3 assignments, start studying for finals, AND finish up my script!

MELISSA
You mean THIS script?

She pulls out a script to this episode. How WACKY!!!

MELISSA
Nah man, this script looks solid to me. I like the part where you say-

MIKE
Enough with the meta stuff, I’m about to freak over here!

MELISSA
That’s the line! And then you go over to the computer and check your email.

MIKE
Why do I do that-

MELISSA
Because it’s in the script, silly.

MIKE
Yeah. Well, that’s very clever and all, but I’ve got a lot of progress to make up after this-

MELISSA
YOU DO NOT DISOBEY THE SCRIPT!!!

The powers of the script force me to walk over to my computer and check my email, all against my will.

MELISSA
Goody. Glad we’re on the same page. Ha.

MIKE
HA. Who writes this crap?

MELISSA
You do! And I think it’s swell.

We look at each other as she gives an earnest grin. I can’t help but give a small smile as I look back at my computer.

MIKE
Hey look I got an email from that guest speaker from yesterday.

MEL comes up and peeps over my shoulder.

KNOTTS (V.O.)
I got a chance to look over your stuff. It was certainly rough, but it does possess a certain heart and charm to it. It has a primitive, iconic look that I think could work well in a limited animation series, along the lines of Home Movies or South Park.

MIKE
Primitive???

MELISSA
It’s a compliment. I think. Keep reading.

KNOTTS (V.O.)
I think you should continue to develop your style along these lines. As you go forward, be sure to study facial expressions and body language, especially the latter. While the tenderness you share with your purple skunk character shows through, your other emotions don’t stand out as much. I can see them, but I don’t FEEL them. Also, be sure to study proportions and anatomy. Even if you pursue a stylized, exaggerated form for your work, it still needs to be based at least somewhat off the real thing. You need to learn the rules before you can break them. I hope you find this helpful and continue to develop your craft.

MELISSA
That’s good! Right?

MIKE
I guess... or maybe it’s HORRIBLE!!!

I slam my head on my desk.

MELISSA
For Pete’s sake, Mike. It’s honest constructive criticism from a professional. And even if it might have seemed a little backhanded in places it’s meant to help you improve. What more do you want?

MIKE
I WANT TO BE GOOD AT EVERYTHING OR I DON’T WANT TO EXIST ANYMORE!!!

MELISSA sighs and searches for something to say. She peeks out the window and sees TWINKY DUNCAN.

MELISSA
Hey man, you think Twinky Duncan cares about being good at everything?

MIKE
NO, BUT TWINKY DUNCAN IS... is...

MELISSA
The most awesome thing in the world?

MIKE
Yeah... (pause) I think I know what I wanna do for my animation project.

MELISSA
Are you gonna make a tribute to how awesome Twinky Duncan is?

MIKE
No, I think I’m gonna drink some arsenic instead.

MELISSA
GOSH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! FOR THE THIRD TIME! THREE TIMES, MIKE!!!

MIKE
Kidding! I’ll do the Twinky thing.

MELISSA
Cool. Still that doesn’t undo the fact that I’ve had to say "gosh" thrice before the commercial break. That’s a problem.

MIKE
Is it?

MELISSA
YES IT IS!!! CUT NOW BEFORE I SAY IT AGAIN!!!

If you say so. COMMERCIAL BREAK!!!

SCENE 5- INT. MIKE’S IMAGINATION LOBBY, ???

I’m back in my imagination place in my skunk form, with MELISSA there and everything. I’m "visualizing".

MELISSA
So how’s the project coming along?

MIKE
I have the idea in my head of what I want to do. Would you like to see?

MELISSA
Of course!

MIKE
Right on! BEHOLD!!!

SCENE 6- EXT. EVIL DEMENTED FORTRESS, NIGHT

Orchestral metal blares as MEL and I lower in onto the scene... in ever so dramatic fashion.

MIKE
Scene 1: Exterior Evil Demented Fortress, night.

MELISSA
I can see that.

MIKE
Well, I just said so in case you couldn’t. And to be dramatic.

MELISSA
Moreso the latter I’m guessing?

MIKE
...Yeah.

A badass version of TWINKY DUNCAN barges through the wall and decapitates like 20 guards with one swing of his axe. Oh and all this is hyperrealistic and gory.

MELISSA
Wow. Twinky beefed up. Are you sure that isn’t Walrus Gumbo?

MIKE
Nope. THAT’S Walrus Gumbo.

WALRUS GUMBO, three times bigger and buffer than TWINKY DUNCAN, follows and roars his ferocious... squirrel roar.

MELISSA
Well then. (pause) So is there a point to all this bloodshed?

MIKE
There is. Twinky and Walrus are here on a mission.

MELISSA
Saving a damsel in distress?

MIKE
Not exactly. Follow me!

We jump off the castle wall and all the way up and into...

SCENE 7- INT. TALLEST TOWER, NIGHT

We crash in on a slave form of myself, slaving away on duplicating a painting for KING SNEEP CAT. TWO GUARDS stand at the door, unaware of MEL and my skunk form.

MELISSA
Well, this certainly is dramatic.

MIKE
Hey, it’s like you said. If being dramatic was all it took...

MELISSA
I guess you’re right about that. Quick question though, how are you gonna translate this into an animation in two weeks-

MIKE
Wait, watch. This is important.

SLAVE MIKE shows the completed painting to the two GUARDS.

GUARD 1
Not good enough, slave!

The GUARDS start beating poor little SLAVE ME.

GUARD 2
Your primitive artistic style is unworthy of the great King Sneep Cat! This will learn you to do better!

MELISSA
Man... what is it with you and your artwork? And what is it with you and Sneep Cat?

MIKE
I have nothing against him personally. I just think he’s a tyrant. With bad help. Very bad. That and he needs to drop the whole "unpaid cab fare" thing.

MELISSA
Right... HE needs to drop it.

TWINKY and WALRUS barge in and gore the two guards.

MELISSA
Well, this is all very... something.

MIKE
It sure is!

MEL pulls out a script.

MELISSA
I’m still not sure how you’re gonna do this in two weeks. Another question though... it says in the script that after Twinky and Walrus
(MORE)

MELISSA (cont'd)
do this they have a gay threesome with you? How are you gonna stage that? And are you sure that's appropriate for a classroom setting?

MIKE
What?!?!?!? Have you been messing with the script?!?!?!?

MELISSA
No, it's just there. Look.

TWINKY, WALRUS, and I get in a little too close for comfort. Pretty soon we're all making out with one another.

MIKE
ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH. THIS ISN'T HAPPENING. NO WAY, NO HOW.

MELISSA
Hey man, why'd you write it if you didn't wanna go through with it?

MIKE
I didn't. You know what though? It doesn't matter because I CAN'T DO ANY OF THIS ANYWAYS BECAUSE I SUCK!!!

The scene dissolves away into...

SCENE 8- INT. MIKE'S LIVING ROOM, 11/29/2011, 9PM

I sit back on the couch with a defeated look on my face. MELISSA moves in, determined to get through to me this time.

MELISSA
Mike... do you know why Twinky Duncan is the most awesome thing in the world?

MIKE
Why?

MELISSA
It's not because he's super buff or kills people with axes or has gay threesomes with slaves.

MIKE
Yeah about that last part-

MELISSA
It’s because he just does his thing and he doesn’t even give half a darn. He has no job, no school, but best of all no worries. He’s not always freaking out about the future and he’s not beating himself up because he doesn’t feel like he’s good enough at what he does. He does the best he can to make it through and he’s A-OK with that. And somewhere along the line, it all fell into place and he became the most awesome thing in the world.

MIKE
So I should just go hang out in a tree all day and eat nuts?

MELISSA
Boy, wouldn’t that be great? But no, not exactly. Look, what you can learn from Twinky is to not stress yourself out over being what you’re not, but instead being okay with what you are. Take it day by day, keep improving gradually, and don’t lose sight of yourself. If you do that, pretty soon you may find yourself being the most awesome thing in the world. And if not, you may still come pretty darn close.

MIKE
You think I could be as awesome as Twinky Duncan some day?

MELISSA
Well between you and me... I think you already are. But someday, if you keep working at what you wanna do, you could be sitting up there next to him inspiring others by being MIKE, THE MOST AWESOME THING IN THE UNIVERSE.

MIKE
...In the whole universe?

MELISSA
In the whole MULTIVERSE! Whatever gets you to stop fishing for compliments already.

I smile.

MIKE
I love you, Melissa.

MELISSA
I love you too, babe.

Lick exchange.

MIKE
Hey I just thought of something...

MELISSA
What’s that sweet stuff?

MIKE
Sweet stuff?

MELISSA
Sweet stuff!

MIKE
...Sure. Anyways, who’s gonna be your voice...? The only person I know who might fit the role is...

MELISSA gives me a big, sultry grin. She knows who I’m talking about.

MIKE
Gosh...

MELISSA
DON’T YOU GOSH ME, MISTER!!!

SCENE 9- INT. MIKE’S BEDROOM, 11/30/2011, 3PM

VERONICA is there in my bedroom, ready to act. I’m holding a shotgun microphone down in front of both of us as we’re looking at the script on the wall.

MIKE
This is how professionals do it. Because I’m a professional. Clearly. Ready?

VERONICA
No.

MIKE
Cool. Go.

I press record as VERN quickly tries to adjust into character.

VERONICA
(doing MEL’s voice)
Hey.

MIKE
Hey.

VERONICA
How’s the paper coming along?

The scene dissolves to...

SCENE 10- INT. LIGHTWORKS FILM SHOWCASE, 12/17/2011, 11PM

BEHOLD!!! My first ever animation playing before an audience. It’s really stiff and it’s obvious I don’t know what I’m doing but that’s A-OK with me. JOE, CONOR, VERONICA, PHIL, LEE, JIMMY, and BRYANA are there. It moves ahead to the ending where MELISSA and I are sitting up in a tree with TWINKY DUNCAN. The crowd applauds and the lights go up. I get congratulations from my friends. The HOST comes forward.

HOST
Well, that concludes the animation section of the show. I know your programs said there were supposed to be two more animations, but... I guess there aren’t. If you hang tight we’ll be right back with the judge’s verdict for best animation. In the meantime... who’d like to do some trivia?

Crickets.

HOST
Winners will be entered into a raffle to win a gift card to Best Buy. Anyone? Anyone at all?

JOE, JIMMY, CONOR and I all look at each other and nod. We get up and head to the front.

HOST
Thank you! Thank you, really. Okay, so your question is... who was the only actor to star in both the Die Hard AND Harry Potter series? Write your answers on the cards over there-

Before he finishes, we all have our answers written and hand them to him.

HOST
Well. Okay. The correct answer is Alan Rickman, and you all got it right. Hooray for them! Yay...

We return to our seats.

HOST
Anyone else up for trivia? Anyone? PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF GOD PLAY SOME TRIVIA- Oh, looks like the judges are ready with their verdict. (SAVED!!!)

Five JUDGES come down to the center of the auditorium.

JIMMY
So do you think you’re gonna win?

MIKE
Oh, I dunno... I didn’t even know they were gonna be giving out awards at this thing.

PHIL
Well I like your chances. For one thing, the other project was cheap stop-motion. For another, it was really one-note and reliant off pop-culture references. Yours had a lot more going on. Plus since there were only two you got a 50-50 chance, right?

JUDGE #1
So this was a very difficult decision since even though there were a limited number of choices, they were two quality works. Even though it makes our job harder, we’re really fortunate that we were able to watch two really good
(MORE)

JUDGE #1 (cont'd)
projects by two promising students. That said, the winner of best animated short at this year's U of M lightworks festival is... "The Not So Super Mario Bros".

My heart sinks a little bit, though I suck it up and applaud anyways. The person who made "Not So Super Mario" goes up and collects a DVD as their award.

JUDGE #1
However, we do have a couple honorable mentions for the runner up. "Mike and Melissa Don't Do Work and Hang Out with a Squirrel Instead" has earned the awards of "best motivational message for finals week" and "best use of a squirrel"!

I get applause, then I stand up and get some acknowledgement. I start to make my way to the front.

JUDGE #1
Uh... stay there though, you don't get a DVD.

The applause awkwardly dies off. I sit back down, my heart sinking once again.

SCENE 11- INT. PHIL'S LIVING ROOM, 12/18/2011, 1 AM

We're all hanging out at PHIL's place, watching some animated movie that nobody's really paying attention to and playing a rousing game of Shitmouth or something.

PHIL
Well, I definitely think yours should have won.

LEE
Yeah, that was bullshit.

JIMMY
I talked with one of the judges afterwards, and it sounded like 4 of them liked yours better but for some reason one judge was just not havin' it and wouldn't change her mind. So they compromised by giving you those BS "honorable mention" awards. How's that make you feel?

MIKE
Eh. No better or worse, I guess. I worked hard to get that thing done and even though it could have been better I’m happy with it.

PHIL
And you should be.

JOE
I gotta say I really liked Veronica as the voice of Melissa... much moreso than I like her voice in real life.

VERONICA
(doing an intentionally annoying voice)
Why, what’s wrong with my voice?

JOE
Your voice in Melissa had confidence, joy, and everything you don’t. That’s why I like it.

VERONICA
Aw shucks, thanks a lot.

It’s my turn to play a card. I don’t have anything so I "eat the shit".

MIKE
Oh, damn it, I gotta eat this shit... on that note, I’m takin’ a shit break.

PHIL
Well it won’t be your turn for a while-

MIKE
No, I mean an actual one.

JOE
Gross! Thanks for sharing-

MIKE
YOU’RE WELCOME!!!

I get up and walk over to...

SCENE 12- INT. PHIL’S BATHROOM, 12/18/2011, 1:15AM

I’m there in the bathroom doing... bathroom things. MEL poofs in and gives me a big smooch on the mouth.

MELISSA
CONGRATS SWEETHEART!!!

MIKE
For what? Getting 2nd of 2 in a rigged ceremony?

MELISSA
Aw, who gives a poop about that? Mike, you did it! You stuck it out and you made a pretty damn good animation for the limited time and resources that you had. And even if it wasn’t perfect, and even if you got gypped, you still made yourself a cartoon. How many people do you know who can say that? It’s not only something to build upon, it’s something you can be proud of forever.

MIKE
Well, there’s a lot of building upon to do if you ask me, but I think you’re right!

MELISSA
FINALLY!!!

Kiss again.

MIKE
Thanks for believing in me, babe.

MELISSA
Thanks for living up to my belief in you! But you know, now there’s one more thing we gotta do...

MIKE
What’s that?

SCENE 13- EXT. MIKE’S APARTMENT, 12/18/2011, 3PM

MEL and I are bundled up outside, standing below a tree.

MELISSA
FINISH YOUR PAPER, YOUR ASSIGNMENTS, STUDY FOR YOUR FINALS, AND DO ALL THAT OTHER STUFF!!!

MIKE
I did all that already.

MELISSA
...You did?

MIKE
Yeah, it’s all done. I’m on break!

MELISSA
Really? Wow. Every time I saw you it looked like you were either playing Glitchrim or working on your animation.

MIKE
What can I say? I’m sneaky like that.

MELISSA
I guess so. Well in that case, come hang out with this squirrel!

MIKE
Fine, but no gay threesomes.

MELISSA
Not unless you write one in.

MIKE
...Touche, I guess? Whatever.

She smirks as she helps me up onto the tree. TWINKY DUNCAN stares at us, then keeps doing his thing. MEL leans her head on my shoulder as we watch the sun set. How romantic!

OUTRO SEQUENCE!!!

This episode received an honorable mention for... something. GIVE ME AN AWARD GODDAMN IT!!!